Ban on Smoking

†1118. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the campaign being run by Government to ban smoking; and

(b) the details of the death rate due to smoking for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, *inter-alia*, prohibits smoking in public places. The provision of the Act relating to ban on smoking in public places, amongst others, has come into force w.e.f. 1st May, 2004. Sustained IEC activities are undertaken at the Central and State levels for implementation of provisions of the said Act.

(b) Tobacco is responsible directly or indirectly for an estimated eight lakh deaths annually in the country.

Modernisation of Government Hospitals in NER

1119. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to modernize all the Government Hospitals in NER, particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of amount proposed for the purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this respect.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to modernize all the Government Hospitals in North Eastern Region, including in Assam.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, under the Non/Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), 3 health projects have been sanctioned by the Department of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), *viz* the development of Assam Medical College & Hospital (HOPE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crores, Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College & Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores and construction of 100-bedded hospital at Udaljuri at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.69 Crores.

A grant of Rs. 1.10 crores has also been released to the Govt. of Assam for hospital waste management facilities at Medical Colleges at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Mahendera Mohan Chowdhury Hospital, Guwahati. A grant of Rs. 1.50 crore each has also been released to Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities.

Promotion to Yoga

†1120. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases have come to Government's notice wherein incurable diseases have been cured by yoga;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any plan to promote yoga; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have initiated a number of steps which include establishment of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in New Delhi to promote Yoga. Through the CCRYN, Government promotes intra and extra mural research in different branches of Yoga and also provide financial support for propagation and scientific validation of Yoga therapy. The MDNIY is engaged in promotion of education and Yoga therapy, directly. Besides,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.